

W5YI

National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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VECs HOLD 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Amateur Radio testing coordinators held their Fourth Annual VEC Conference in Dallas, Texas, on June 3rd. The meeting was attended by amateur radio testing organizations representing virtually all ham testing above the Novice level.

Since 1985, all Technician and higher class testing of ham radio operators has been conducted by amateur radio operators holding senior licenses. The efforts of these volunteer examiners are coordinated by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) who act as the administrative link between the amateur testing community and the FCC who issue the licenses.

HISTORY OF AMATEUR TESTING

Volunteer ham self-testing started to take shape during the early 1980's when the FCC began abolishing most of its commercial radiotelephone licensing program. The government eventually turned their technician licensing program over to industry groups. A general trend towards privatization of many government functions developed.

In 1981 legislation was enacted to legally allow the public to voluntarily assist the government. The Novice examination, which had been administered by volunteers for decades, was determined to be illegal since federal rules forbid volunteer help from the public. As a taxpayer saving measure, the following year Senator **Barry Goldwater/K7UGA**, introduced legislation that laid the groundwork for all testing of amateur radio operators to be conducted

in the private sector by volunteers.

Public Law 97.259, signed by President Reagan on September 13, 1982, carried Goldwater's amendment authorizing legal volunteer amateur radio operator test preparation and administration. Article 32 of the *International Radio Regulations* require that each country verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person wishing to operate a ham radio station. The United States became the first nation to authorize ham radio operators to verify their own qualifications. Previously the FCC had developed and administered all amateur radio operator code and theory examinations. During 1983 the FCC developed the guidelines for its Technician and higher class amateur self-testing system. The Novice testing program was basically already in place.

Prior to 1984, the examination questions on FCC administered amateur radio operator tests were supposedly not known. Word had a way of getting around, however. At least one amateur, **Dick Bash, KL7IHP**, (which he said stood for I Help People) made a career of researching and publishing the exact questions and answers to all ham radio operator examinations. Amateur radio operator test questions and answers were pretty well available to anyone that wanted to purchase them in the early 1980's.

The FCC decided to try a different system. With help from the amateur community, the government developed and released all possible test

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questions that could be asked of ham operators. It was not without precedent ...other government agencies had taken a similar approach. The FCC developed ten times as many questions as would be needed in any one amateur radio operator examination. These lists, known as question pools, were released to the public in the form of "PR (for Private Radio) 1035 Bulletins." PR-1035A contained the Novice questions, PR-1035B covered the Technician class and so on.

THE VEC SYSTEM TAKES SHAPE

Once the question pools were in place, the FCC began a search for a testing system administrator who would recruit examiners and further develop a program to test amateur radio operator applicants. The Commission also said that 1984 would be the last year that they would examine amateur radio operators. Initially it was thought that the *American Radio Relay League* would be the sole ham testing administrator.

The League still had not accepted the position, however, six months later and it began to appear that amateur testing opportunities might be very limited or even non-existent in the future. When it became apparent that the ARRL was undecided and apprehensive about agreeing to handle ham radio operator testing on a national basis the FCC elected to go with smaller regional groups. They called these administrators Volunteer Examiner Coordinators ...VECs.

The primary duty of a VEC is to select examiners and provide them with examination materials and testing guidelines. It was obvious that Goldwater envisioned that all ham radio examinations would be handled similar to the Novice program - by individual amateurs that would certify the qualifications of others. As a safeguard against cheating, however, the FCC elected to require testing teams rather than a single volunteer examiner (VE).

Several organizations applied to become a VEC - all on a regional basis. The *W5YI* program was the first to apply to become a National Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. We set up a program which shifted many expenses to the volunteer examiner. Amateurs, interesting in helping the service grow, had always volunteered their services to conduct Novice examinations. We figured they would come through for all other license classes as well. We were right! Once a provision was made for

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reimbursement of testing expenses, the ARRL also applied to become a VEC in all regions. There are currently three national in scope testing programs (ARRL, DeVry and W5YI) and fifteen regional VECs.

The early days of volunteer testing saw different answers to examination questions. The FCC had released the questions - but not the answers. It was left to the individual VECs to develop the answers and different VECs had different answers to the same questions! We solved the answer problem by filing a FOIA (*Freedom of Information Act*) request for the answers that the FCC had in their possession. Once received, we circulated them to other VECs and license preparation publishers. It was our first attempt at standardization. Once the ARRL became a VEC, their answers to the examination emerged as the de facto standard which most (but not all) VECs adopted and provided their volunteer examiners.

VECS AGREE TO STANDARDIZE

The first VEC Conference was held in 1985 at the FCC's licensing facility in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. While the main objective of the conference was VEC training and to observe the license issuance process, VECs made it known that they wanted to work towards further standardization of amateur testing. The VEC Conference in 1986 was at FCC headquarters in Washington, DC. The *Third Annual VEC Conference* was held last July at the ARRL National Convention in Atlanta.

Cooperation among all VECs has now resulted in every VEC adopting the same answer format to examination questions. The *§Part 97* rules now require that VECs agree on a single common question pool. At one point, different question pools among the VECs were envisioned by the FCC. Thus an applicant can now be reasonably assured that no matter where amateur radio operator examinations are held, the questions and answers will be exactly the same. All commercially published license preparation study guides support the same material.

FOURTH ANNUAL VEC CONFERENCE

This year's VEC Conference, moderated by **Tom Ingram, K4OOV**, of the Central Alabama VEC, was held at the ARRL West Gulf Convention in Dallas. VECs representing over 95% of all amateur testing and members of the amateur industry

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met with the FCC's **Johnny Johnston, W3BE**, Chief of the Personal Radio Branch in Washington, DC.

Johnston expressed concern that examination cheating by applicants - and in some cases by volunteer examiners - is a growing and very expensive problem to the government. He said the VEC System is successful and working, but that VECs must be very alert and watchful. He noted that, in some cases, innocent applicants are affected in that their examination results must be invalidated because of improper testing procedures. The rules provide for license revocation, fines and *imprisonment* against those involved in fraudulent amateur radio operator examinations. The FCC is currently actively pursuing each of these punishments against those involved at all levels of the testing process.

Johnston said a total of 49,728 applicants were administered 81,042 examination elements at 4,378 sessions in the VEC System last year - a record. Of the 45,669 examination elements administered in the last six months, four organizations (ARRL 49.6%, W5YI 25.4%, Central Alabama VEC 5.9% and DeVry 4.0%) accounted for 85% of all amateur radio examinations. The average time to process a VEC System FCC Form 610 application received in good order is running 25.5 days after receipt. Applicants should add another three weeks to go through the VE/VEC System. Errors on applications, reports and late filed applications are a problem. Johnston asked "Should the FCC start issuing fines or dismiss late filed applications as defective?"

The VECs discussed the need to reduce all commonly asked questions and license requirements to examination questions in future pools and standardizing the code examinations. While it was suggested that the five and thirteen word-per-minute code test be transmitted at 13 wpm speed and the twenty word-per-minute code exam given at 20 wpm character spacing, no firm VEC position was adopted. The specifications and administration of the code test will remain the total responsibility of the VE team.

While not generally known among the testing community, the responsibility for the answers to the written examination questions and the answer format are also a VE team function. While volunteer examiners are allowed to change the answer format, a resolution was adopted by the VECs urging

all VE's to use the multiple choice answer format as provided by the *Question Pool Committee*. Although legal to do so, no VEC was aware of any volunteer examining team that used answers different from the multiple choices provided by the VECs *Question Pool Committee*.

The QPC is made up of three VEC members (**Jim Clary/WB9IHH**, **Ray Adams/N4BAQ**, **R.C. Smith/W6RZA**) and one alternate (**Fred Maia/W5YI**) who serve for one year. Their function is to agree on the questions and answers that will be used on all amateur radio operator license examinations. Members of the current *Question Pool Committee* were re-elected for another year.

The FCC has proposed sweeping changes to the §Part 97 rules. These changes, when adopted, will have a major impact on examination questions. Development and distribution of updated questions will be handled by the *Question Pool Committee* as soon as possible after adoption.

In the §Part 97 Rewrite, applicants will still be responsible for knowing all of the 43 Morse code characters, but VEs would have the leeway to use something less than all the characters. "The preparing VEs greatest difficulty seems to be in using all 43 characters in preparing a 25 word message for [Novice] Element 1(A.) Apparently, the 65 word element 1(B) and the 100 word element 1(C) are long enough to make it easy to use all of the characters. We may be able to provide you with earlier relief for the 5 words-per-minute test. The whole matter is open for comment in the rewrite Docket," Johnson said.

DeVry's **Jim Georgias/W9JUG** developed new VEC Instructions which will now be called the "Basic Guidelines" for VE/VEC System testing. In the interest of standardization, each VEC will adapt these general standards to their own program. Retiring **Jim Kessler/KQ3S**, of the Laurel VEC was honored for his long service to the VEC system.

The *Extra Class* written examination will change to a new updated version on November 1, 1988. The QPC is currently considering newly submitted questions to the Element 2 (Novice) and 3A (Technician) examinations which will be revised and implemented on November 1, 1989. A special form was approved for the amateur community to use when submitting recommended changes to the *Novice Element 2* and *Technician Element 3(A)* question

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pools. The *Fifth Annual VEC Conference* is scheduled for next summer in the Gettysburg, PA, area.

PHASE 3C LAUNCH SLIPS TO JUNE 15

The launch of AMSAT's Phase 3C satellite has slipped a third time to June 15th - a few days after this issue goes to press. OSCAR-13 may well be in orbit by the time you read this report. The original liftoff was scheduled for June 8th. Then a turbine inspection set the launch back to June 10.

The mission's main objective is to orbit two commercial payloads. AMSAT's Phase 3C satellite is a hitch hiker and will be the last to be deployed. Phase 3C will become **AMSAT OSCAR-13** over the eastern Indian Ocean south of Sumatra some 80 minutes after launch. Amateur stations in the United States and Canada should be able to receive OSCAR-13's engineering beacon on 145.985 MHz at launch plus 11 hours 6 - 18 minutes.

The latest delay was caused by a defective on-board computer which had to be replaced. The exact nature of the computer failure is unknown. A new Ariane-4 launcher flight computer was flown in from Paris and has now been installed and reported to be working OK. The launch windows for Wednesday, June 15 are similar to the prior windows - 11:13-12:09 UTC and 13:32-14:46 UTC.

Meanwhile, the Phase 3C satellite is in excellent condition on its perch more than 175 feet above the ELA-2 launch pad at the Guiana Space Center of the European Space Agency in Kourou (South America). The telemetry stream monitored by a joint AMSAT-NA/AMSAT-DL team indicates all's well with the spacecraft.

When the launch comes, it will be viewed by a very large audience; large for an unmanned launch that is. C-SPAN (the *Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network*) will broadcast the launch live. C-SPAN can be seen by over 34 million households on 2,900+ cable systems across the United States. Backyard dish owners can also watch C-SPAN's coverage directly from the satellite by tuning to GALAXY 3 parked at 93.5 degrees West, transponder 24.

C-SPAN is covering the launch live since it is a future user of Panamasat - one of the commercial payloads. We understand that there is also a chance that C-SPAN might use some of the AMSAT

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videotape footage taken during the final Phase 3C preparations in Kourou. AMSAT plans to edit the tape to a content suitable for C-SPAN broadcast. Arianespace will also broadcast the launch on SPACENET 1, transponder 1.

A teleconference network made up of several amateur repeater and HF stations across the U.S. will go one the air 30 minutes before the primary launch window opens ...about 10:45Z. North American transmit frequencies will be as follows: W1AW (ARRL) published voice bulletin frequencies. WA3NAN (*Goddard Space Flight Center/Greenbelt, MD*) 3860 - 7185 - 14295 - 21395 - 147.45. W6VIO (*Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Pasadena, CA*) 14282 - 21280 - 3840 or 7165. W5RRR (*Johnson Space Flight Center/Houston, TX*) 3840 - 7165. Teleconference audio will also be uplinked to OSCAR-10 and downlinked at 145.957 MHz USB.

Due to its highly elliptical orbit, for the first several month of operation there will be periods when OSCAR-13 will give nearly the coverage of a geosynchronous satellite since it will be right over the equator. It is expected that OSCAR-13 will be operational for some five years or more. Its 150 kHz of available bandwidth is adequate for about 50 simultaneous QSO's under ideal conditions. With a satellite longitude of 100 degrees West, for example, the footprint could include all of the Western Hemisphere (except for Greenland). Moved to 15 degrees West longitude, all of the U.S. and Canada east of the Mississippi, all of South America, Africa, Europe and the Middle East are in view.

Details concerning OSCAR-13, its operating frequencies and suitable ground station equipment may be found in an excellent June QST article on page 22. (Portions of this report excerpted from **AMSAT News Service** reports.)

SKITREK COMES TO A CLOSE!

At 1435 UTC on June 1st, the thirteen Soviet and Canadian skiers completed their ninety day, 1,250 mile journey from Cape Arctic in the Soviet Union over the North Pole to Ward Hunt Island in Canada. Ward Hunt, a tiny island off the coast of Cape Columbia, Ellesmere Island, has seen the beginning and end of many a polar expedition, but never one of this magnitude.

The last days on the ice were spent with some frustration by the skiers. Due to 6 mile wide

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crack in the ice, a special air drop of rafts was thought to be necessary. Fortunately the temperature dropped and the water froze to a rough ice state with many pools of open water. The skiers wove back and forth making very slow progress for a day or so before encountering more normal ice conditions.

On the last day of their trek, the skiers journeyed the last 12 miles and were met by a plane from Resolute. They were all in good health and walked ashore alongside one another in one line, thus personifying the spirit of cooperation between the two groups which has made it possible to complete this first time crossing of the Arctic from Russia to Canada. End of trek medical tests were conducted by the two skier doctors.

On unexpected outcome of the expedition may be a medical confirmation of the recently discovered thinning of the ozone layer over the Arctic. Increased solar radiation at ultraviolet wavelengths may be responsible for the very deep sunburns received by the skiers despite their use of sunblocking creams that only let in some 4% of the sun's harmful rays.

Word of their safe arrival was passed from the expedition by amateur radio to the Canadian base station C18C at Resolute Bay, which then relayed the good news to Ottawa and Moscow and the other participating stations of the *Polar Bridge Amateur Radio Network*.

This has been very much a team operation with the amateur radio component providing the safety and housekeeping lifeline for the skiers. Fifty or sixty amateur radio operators were behind the communications effort involved in the *Transpolar Skitrek Expedition*.

With the exception of the loss of the ICOM equipment being used by **Barry Garratt, 4K0DX**, at North Pole 28, the floating Soviet ice station near the Pole, the complete amateur radio communications system worked extremely well and is a tribute to the dedication of the team of amateurs who worked for over three months in support of the expedition. Garratt's gear fell into the sea when a crack developed in the ice.

Sincere congratulations to **Dr. Dmitry Shparo, UA3AJH**, Chief of the expedition and his four Canadian and eight Soviet companions on their

impressive achievement. The skiers are now in Ottawa for debriefing, family reunions and well deserved celebrations. Amateur radio operators are proud and pleased to have been a part of this most exciting enterprise.

Our Skitrek progress reports involved the volunteer efforts of many ham/journalists. Special thanks go to **Al d'Eon/VE3AND** and **Rich Ensign/N8IWJ** who constantly provided us with Polar Bridge Expedition updates over the past three months. Much of it came instantly to our computer via MCI electronic mail. They got their information from **Ralph Wallio/WORPK** who taped and transcribed the daily HF nets and **Tom Atkins/VE3CDM** who was in constant contact with the skiers and the *Polar Bridge Amateur Radio Network*. No commerical news media could have had better coverage.

The expedition was followed by at least 100,000 students worldwide at all age levels. From New Zealand 5 year olds to University students in Sri Lanka, the trek was followed in a variety of modes and levels. All discovered amateur radio and satellites through the digitalker and expanded their understanding of the far North.

• **John R. Vota/WB1FDY** of Centerdale, Rhode Island, has received a written reprimand from the FCC for signing as a VE at a December 20, 1987, North Providence test session when he was not present. Three accredited examiners were at the test session, but one neglected to certify some of the applications. Vota, who was scheduled to conduct the examination and had been hospitalized, signed the Form 610's from his hospital room to expedite their handling.

• The **National Capitol DX Association** presented achievement plaques to 20 of its members for contacting more than 200 countries in 1987. The top honor went to its president, **Ken Miller/K6IR**, who had two-way contacts with amateurs in 268 countries in one year. 1987 was the fiftieth anniversary of the ARRL's DXCC program.

• **Antenna Specialists Co.** of Cleveland, Ohio, who had won an earlier antenna patent infringement suit against United Communications of Compton, California, have been awarded damages
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APRIL VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

	<u>April</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
No. VEC's		*76	*59	*62
Testing Sessions	337	354	378	
VEC	1986	1987	1988	
ARRL	56.1%	45.2%	39.4%	
W5YI	14.5	25.7	35.2	
CAVEC	3.0	7.9	7.1	
DeVry	5.0	5.1	5.3	
Others	21.4	13.9	16.3	
Year-to-Date Sess:	1227	1390	1518	
Elements Administ.	6618	7870	8707	
VEC	1986	1987	1988	
ARRL	62.3%	54.3%	48.6%	
W5YI	12.5	19.1	29.4	
CAVEC	5.9	5.5	6.1	
DeVry	3.7	3.4	3.5	
Others	15.6	17.7	12.4	
Year-to-Date Elem.	22119	26383	31759	
Applicants Tested	4470	4736	5142	
VEC	1986	1987	1988	
ARRL	61.6%	52.6%	47.3%	
W5YI	10.5	17.5	35.2	
CAVEC	6.0	5.2	5.6	
DeVry	3.7	4.1	3.6	
Others	17.2	20.6	8.3	
Year-to-Date Tested	15055	17116	18646	
April	1986	1987	1988	
Pass Rate - All	58.2%	61.1%	61.9%	
Pass Rate - W5YI	54.7%	58.0%	55.8%	
Applicants/Session	13.3	13.4	13.6	
Appl./Session W5YI	10.0	9.9	10.4	
Elements/Applicant	1.5	1.7	1.7	
Sessions Per VEC	4.4	6.0	6.1	

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

	<u>April</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
Defect. Applications	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%	
Late Filed Sessions	0.3%	0.6%	1.3%	
Defective Reports	3.3%	0.6%	2.4%	

*Note:

The FCC Considers ARRL, W5YI and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call Sign districts 1 through 0 plus Alaska (11), Caribbean (12) and Pacific Insular areas (13).

[Source: Pers.Rad.Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.]

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS...

issued as of the *first of June 1988*.

<u>Radio District</u>	<u>Group A Extra</u>	<u>Group B Advan.</u>	<u>Group C Tech/Gen</u>	<u>Group D Novice</u>
0	WJ0K	KE0VZ	N0JKE	KB0CVG
1	NR1U	KC1JS	N1FTJ	KA1SFG
2	WG2L	KE2HH	N2IGT	KA2FWJ
3	NQ3I	KD3IB	N3GHH	KA3TGJ
4	(*) AB4IQ	KM4CH	N4TAD	KC4FRR
5	(*) AA5GA	KG5KT	N5MRD	KB5GOP
6	(*) AA6IV	KJ6HW	N6SIL	KB6YSO
7	WO7N	KF7KV	N7LDS	KB7FFO
8	WG8N	KE8SD	N8JPA	KB8EZH
9	NZ9H	KE9LB	N9HNR	KB9BAB
N. Mariana Is.	AH0F	AH0AE	KH0AK	WH0AAH
Guam	KH2K	AH2BY	KH2DH	WH2ALP
Johnston Isl.	AH3B	AH3AC	KH3AB	WH3AAC
Midway Island		AH4AA	KH4AD	WH4AAF
Palmyra/Jarvis	AH5A			
Hawaii	(**)	AH6JA	NH6PI	WH6BYU
Kure Island			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8C	WH8AD	KH8AG	WH8AAX
Wake Wilkes Peale		AH9AD	KH9AD	WH9AAH
Alaska	(**)	AL7JY	NL7OA	WL7BRT
Virgin Islands	KP2Y	KP2BN	NP2CO	WP2AGA
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4PC	WP4OT	WP4IAQ

NOTE: * = All 2-by-1 format call signs have been assigned in the 4th, 5th and 6th radio districts. 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AL prefix block now being issued to Extra Class amateurs in these districts.

** = All Group "A" (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Only one Group A call sign left in the U.S. Virgin Islands! Group "B" call signs are issued to Extra Class amateurs when all Group "A" format have been assigned.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Penna.]

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and attorney's fees in federal court. United, found to be in contempt of the Court's earlier judgement, was ordered to pay an amount exceeding \$160,000. Antenna Specialists had charged that United Communications copied two of its patented "windshield mounted antenna assemblies" in their line of imported Sierra and Maxim antennas.

- Washington, DC, amateur **Nick Leggett, N3NL**, has filed comments on the §Part 97 rewrite asking that the amateur community be allowed to

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experiment with radar technology. "Radar exists in a legal grey area because it is a one-way transmission that is not explicitly authorized by the rules governing the amateur radio service." He says that amateurs should be allowed to develop radar sets for the blind, radars for mobile robots, digital processing systems for fixed radar units, etc. He wants §97.319 to provide for amateur (50 watt maximum) radar operations in the 1260-1300 MHz, 24.0-24.05 Ghz and 47.0-47.2 Ghz bands by Technician and higher class amateurs.

- Leggett also requests §Part 97 modifications requiring RACES radio stations and all commercially built amateur equipment be protected from **Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP)**. EMP is an intense burst of radio waves generated by a nuclear event in space or the upper atmosphere. "The EMP pulse is sufficiently strong that a single event in space over the nation would damage or destroy most of our communications and electronics equipment. EMP can be used to damage and destroy much of the nation's economic capacity." Leggett says that communications equipment can be protected from EMP effects by conductive shielding and active bypass devices. "To date, only a few selected military systems have been effectively shielded from EMP." He wants §97.413 to require that all amateur stations manufactured or sold by commercial vendors after January 1, 1990, be protected from EMP.

- P.C. Electronics** has introduced a small 1 watt 23-cm (1240-1300 MHz) Amateur Television (ATV) transmitter to enable Novice and higher class amateurs to transmit live action color or black and white composite video and audio from cameras, VCRs or computers to other hams. The **TX-23-1 ATV transmitter** costs \$299 delivered by UPS. (P.C. Electronics, 2522 Paxson Lane, Arcadia, CA 91006. Tom O'Hara/W6ORG, Pres., 818-447-4565)

- Amateurs in Canada** are annoyed that their government have made a decision to cease publishing and distributing the names, addresses and amateur radio station call signs of Canada's 23,000 hams. Canada does not have its own Canadian published callbook and Canadian amateurs say that their government is forcing them to support the U.S. published version.

- Unattended radar units** in Kentucky were meant to slow down motorists with radar detectors along Interstate 75. The FCC ordered them closed down last year less they interfere with other frequencies. Now Kentucky congressmen have gotten FCC

approval for a two year test of car counting by radar. The result is the same, a radar signal that slows down traffic.

- Call for papers.** The ARRL will hold its Seventh Amateur Radio Computer Networking Conference on Saturday, October 1, 1988, at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in the Laurel/Columbia, Maryland area. The deadline for receipt of camera-ready papers is August 25, 1988. Send to: *M. Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111*. Authors kit is available from the League. Papers are invited on all aspects of Amateur Radio digital communication.

- Palomar Engineers** (Escondido, California) has filed suit in federal court against Westcom Communications, RF Parts Co. of San Marcos, California, and RF Limited of Issaquah, Washington, citing infringement of the U.S. trademark registration. Palomar alleges the defendants imported microphones, SWR and power meters and other radio equipment and sold them under the name "Palomar" ...a registered trademark of Palomar Engineers. Palomar spokesman, **Jack Althouse, K6NY**, stated that "the incorrect identification of our company with Japanese imports and CB linears has been a serious problem. We intend to bring a stop to the unauthorized use of our trademark as soon as possible so that our standing in the amateur radio community will remain the best." Palomar will be exhibiting at LMRE's (*Liga Mexicana de Radioexperimentadores*) 50th annual "Queretaro 88" ham convention July 7-8-9. LMRE, Mexico's national ham association, was founded in 1932 and is affiliated with the IARU.

- Speaking of conventions, the **Japan Amateur Radio League, Inc.**, sent us an announcement of their **Ham Fair 88** that will be held at the Tokyo International Trade Center in Harumi, Tokyo from August 26 to August 28. The event will center on three themes (1.) *The fascination of Ionosphere Communication*, (2.) *A Challenge Toward High Technology* and (3.) *First Encounter with GHz*. The Japan Amateur Radio Industries Association will also sponsor a trade fair at the event. Last year, the Fair attracted 54,000 visitors from 18 different countries.

- JARL also reports a slight deterioration of the storage battery on **JAS-1/FO-12 (Fuji OSCAR 12)**. They are trying to lengthen the life of the satellite by limiting transponder operation. JARL asks everyone's understanding. One of the features

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of FO-12 is its store-and-forward packet mailbox where you can send a message to an amateur on the other side of the world, although not in real time. JARL commented that based on the number of TNCs sold, space packeteers apparently only make up 1% of those amateurs with packet capability.

• The FCC has issued a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** that, if adopted, will require labeling of all radio communications receivers to advise users that it may be unlawful to intercept protected radio communications. *Regency Electronics* asked the FCC to require advisory labeling to educate the public that certain communication scanning receivers could be illegal in light of the passage of the *Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986* (ECPA). The ECPA was enacted expressly to extend the protections of the *Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act* to radio communications. Prior to the enactment of the ECPA, the degree to which the interception was prohibited was unclear. A label would be required on all scanning radio receivers and manually tuned radio receivers intended for use by the general public *including amateur radio receivers*. Excluded are radio receivers used for the reception of broadcast transmissions, i.e. television, FM, AM receivers. The FCC asked for comments on whether it should require both a label and accompanying instructive material describing more specifically the communications intended for protection under the ECPA. The labeling requirement would only apply to equipment manufactured some time in the future after the ruling goes into effect.

• France has authorized its amateurs the use of the **50-51 MHz band** on a permit basis. The band will be available only to amateurs living more than 100 miles from a television transmitter. Three watts ERP at a distance of 150 km from a channel 2 transmitter is permitted ...extending to 10W at a distance of 200 km. For channels 3 and 4, the protection zone is the signal coverage area of the television station. CW, SSB, RTTY and packet authorized to fixed stations only.

• Eight stores in the Puget Sound (Washington state) area have been fined \$2,000 each by the FCC's Seattle field office for **selling illegal radio transmitter devices**. Seven of the outlets were fined for selling external CB linear amplifiers ...the eighth store was fined for selling a non-FCC approved transceiver capable of operating in, above and below the CB band. (Actually the FCC will not consider such transmitters for type acceptance.)

• A group calling itself "D.A.R.E." (for **Demand Amateur Rules Enforcement**) have organized for the purpose of improving Amateur Radio conditions in the San Francisco Bay area. They cite (1.) use of abusive and obscene language, (2.) malicious interference and (3.) failure to identify as the most flagrant violations. A campaign will be mounted to notify the FCC in San Francisco (with copies to the Livermore, CA, monitoring station, the Chief, F.O.B. Washington, D.C. and California congressmen) of improper operation. (D.A.R.E. 1442A Walnut St., Berkeley, CA 94709)

• **Glasnost comes to Amateur Radio.** The Canadian Amateur Radio Federation reports that Soviet amateurs may now communicate with any country and even give out their addresses and telephone numbers on the air - and on QSL cards.

• **Dayton Amateur Radio Association** has awarded their 1988 \$1,000 scholarships to: *Lynn Bailey/KA8PWD*, Princeton, WV; *Scott Sterling/KA8UGM*, Coldwater, MI, *Ross Lepiane/WG7I*, Walla Walla, WA; and *David Milthaler, N8FGX* of Tipp City, OH.

TEXAS REPEATER LAWSUITS CONTINUE

Thomas Blaine Hamrick, AL7HH, of Irving, Texas, who has become embroiled in a messy repeater lawsuit, has received the balance of his *Freedom of Information Act* records from the FCC ...including complaints regarding the manner in which he obtained his Alaska call sign.

Letters sent by **Richard Jones/N5IVA** and **Mark Sills/KA5HOG** to the FCC in response to government inquiries have resulted in Hamrick filing lawsuits in State District Court against them. Hamrick accuses Jones and Sills of libel, slander and false light publicity - and using foul language, sexual innuendoes, threats of bodily injury, ...countless prank telephone calls at all hours," and says they are "phone freaks" who "illegally use the telephone system to place free long-distance calls." He also says Jones and Sills were members of a "rival group" which placed an uncoordinated repeater system on the same frequency coordinated to him on 145.23 Mhz. resulting in severe interference. Hamrick also sued **Kerry Miller/WD5ABC** and **Jim Bingham/WK5D** over statements contained in letters they wrote to the FCC in the same petition.

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TEST MANUAL
N 1/2 Test stations 2/3

AMATEUR RADIO QUESTION POOLS
Or use from
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Hamrick is one of nine amateurs originally sued by **Dave Pease/N5DA** last summer. Pease also sued the Texas VHF-FM Society, the recognized repeater coordinator in the state. A 16-page countersuit against Pease was filed by Hamrick alleging libel, slander, false light publicity and invasion of privacy.

The countersuit states that in August, 1986, Hamrick and others formed the *Metroplex Repeater Association (MRA)* because they were disenchanted with the *North Texas Repeater Network (NTRN)* operated by **Dave Pease, N5DA**. Hamrick claims that as soon as he got his repeater on the air, Pease began a campaign of malicious interference. The FCC ordered the NO5R/R uncoordinated system "to immediately take any and all necessary actions to resolve the interference problem". The uncoordinated repeater has since ceased all operation. Hamrick also filed a separate lawsuit against *Pamela Denice McCarthy/KA5SPO*, seeking return of a transceiver he says he loaned her. He says McCarthy, who is blind, is a member of the NTRN.

Last week, Hamrick filed another lawsuit against four more amateurs including **Jim Haynie/WB5JBP**, the ARRL's West Gulf Director. Hamrick alleges that Haynie has harassed him for a number of years involving use of closed repeater systems. He also accuses Haynie of interfering with his applications for RACES membership, keeping files containing false information, accusations and other libelous material ...and intruding into his personal life at home and at his places of occupation.

There is speculation that the suit might be somehow connected with Haynie's bid for re-election as ARRL West Gulf Director since the petition for suit was first circulated at the Dallas West Gulf ARRL Convention where both Haynie and **Tom Comstock/N5TC** were actively campaigning for the ARRL Director slot. Both had campaign booths during the convention. Haynie had a professional model (and ex-Dallas Cowboy cheerleader) adorning his booth. Hamrick apparently filed all of the suits himself without an attorney - and without paying a filing fee, service cost or any other fees that might be incurred - since he has taken a "pauper's oath" ...legally called an *Affidavit of Inability*.

Hamrick asks that the defendants be cited to appear and show cause why a temporary injunction against further harassment and threats should not be issued. He also asks that a permanent injunc-

tion be eventually issued with award of actual and exemplary damages, pre-judgement and post-judgement interest at the highest lawful rate until paid, cost of suit ...and such other and further relief to which plaintiff may be justly entitled. The suit, Haynie says, is frivolous and without fact or foundation. He intends to defend himself vigorously and has already consulted with his attorney regarding a countersuit.

A **Public Notice** was issued by the FCC on June 6th detailing international amateur radio communications arrangements. It reads as follows:

RECIPROCAL AMATEUR OPERATIONS

The United States grants reciprocal operating permits (FCC Form 610-AL) to visiting alien amateur service licensees except to representatives of a foreign government. A foreign national who will be in the United States for an extended period of time is encouraged to obtain an FCC amateur service license. No U.S. citizen, regardless of any other citizenship also held, is eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal permit. An alien holding an FCC-issued amateur service license is not eligible for an FCC-issued reciprocal permit. When an alien obtains an FCC-issued license, it supercedes any FCC-issued reciprocal permit held.

An alien may apply for a permit to operate the alien's amateur station in areas where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC if the alien is a citizen of one of the following countries and also holds an amateur service license from that same country:

Antiguas & Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada (Canadian amateur service stations do not need a reciprocal operating permit while operating in the United States and vice versa), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark (including Greenland), Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France [including French Guiana, French Polynesia (Gambier, Marquesas, Society, and Tubuai Islands and Tuamotu Archipelago), Guadeloupe, Ile Amsterdam, Ile Saint-Paul, Iles Crozet, Iles Kerguelen, Martinique, New Caledonia, Reunion, Saint Pierre & Miquelon, and Wallis and Futuna Islands], Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy,

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Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Liberia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Republic of South Africa, Spain, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, United Kingdom (including Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Saint Helena and Turks and Caicos Islands), Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

An alien amateur licensee may apply for a permit by completing *FCC Form 610-A*, available from any FCC office or, in some cases, from United States missions abroad. The permit is valid for one year or until the expiration date on the alien's amateur service license, whichever comes first. The application and a photocopy of the alien's license must be sent to the FCC, P.O. Box 1020, Gettysburg, PA 17326, U.S.A.

Amateur station transmissions in areas where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC must comply with §Part 97 of the FCC's Rules and the International Telecommunication Union *Radio Regulations*. Operator privileges are those authorized by the alien permittee's own government, but not to exceed those of the FCC Amateur Extra Class operator.

The call sign transmitted in the station identification procedure is that issued by the licensing country, preceded by an appropriate letter-numeral designator, separated by the slant mark or by the word "stroke." (Canadian amateur stations *must* transmit the designator after its call sign since this is called for in the treaty.) At least once during each intercommunication, the alien amateur station must indicate in the English language the geographical location as nearly as possible by city and state, commonwealth or possession.

The station location letter-numeral designators are: 48 contiguous states: W1 through W0, Alaska - KL7, American Samoa - KH8, Baker Island - KH1, Desecheo Island - KP5, District of Columbia W3, Guam KH2, Hawaii KH6, Howland Island - KH1, Jarvis Island - KH5, Johnston Island - KH3, Kingman Reef - KH5K, Kure Island - KH7, Midway Island - KH4, Navassa Island - KP1, Palmyra Island - KH5, Peale Island - KH9, Puerto Rico - KP4, Virgin Islands - KP2, Wake Island - KH9, and Wilkes Island - KH9.

FCC licensees wishing to apply for a reciprocal permit in a foreign country should contact the telecommunications regulatory authority for the country to be visited. The regulations of that country apply.

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS

•**Types of messages:** All radiocommunications between amateur station of different countries, where permitted, must be in plain language and consist only of messages of a technical nature relating to tests and to remarks of a personal character for which, by reason of their unimportance, recourse to the public telecommunications service is not justified. The transmission of business messages is prohibited.

•**Banned countries:** Radiocommunication is forbidden between amateur stations in the following countries and amateur stations in areas where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC because the administration of the country has notified the FCC that it objects to such radiocommunication: None.

•**Third party arrangements:** The United States has arrangements to permit amateur stations in areas where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC to exchange messages for third-parties with amateur stations in: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom (special event stations with call sign prefix GB followed by a number other than 3), Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The United States also has arrangements with the United Nations to permit amateur stations in areas where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC to exchange messages for third-parties with amateur service stations: 4U1ITU in Geneva, Switzerland and 4U1VIC in Vienna, Austria.

At the end of an exchange of international third-party traffic, an amateur service station in an area where the amateur service is regulated by the FCC must transmit the call sign of the foreign amateur service station in addition to its own call sign.